MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. They have made proposals only for arranging the records, cleaning them and indexing them. Transcription is not an easy proposition. The volume of records is so large that it would not be possible to transcribe them within a reasonable time.

Administration of the Central Vernacular Records Office.

45. **MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): (1) Are the Government aware that the old records kept in the Central Vernacular Records Office are subjected to decay for want of proper control and proper arrangement?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is no proper indexing of contents of records and that very often it is difficult to find a record required;

(*b*) whether they are aware that private parties who are applicants for copies are put to great hardship in getting copies;

(*c*) whether they are aware that there are serious complaints about gross corruption in the Central Records Office; and

(*d*) whether any scheme for the better administration of that office is in contemplation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) There has been some delay due to the leakages in the roof when the building was thatched with Dutch tiles. This has since been remedied.

(2) (*a*) there is no index and hence there is difficulty.

The number of *Churunas* in the Records come to nearly 8,000, each of them containing on an average nearly 1,000 *Olas*. No attempt has yet been made towards preparing an index for this huge mass of records.

(*b*) there will be difficulties and delay in finding out records readily in the absence of a proper index.

(*c*) No specific case of corruption has come to the notice of the Government.

(*d*) Proposals are under consideration.

Election of a member to the Legislative Council from the Vaikam constituency

46. **MR. O. M. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the election to the Legislative Council in the Vaikam constituency was postponed from a date originally announced to a subsequent date; and

(*b*) the reason for such postponement?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The death of Mr. C. S. Madhavan Pillai, one of the validly nominated candidates (*vide* Rule 13 of the Legislative Council Electoral Rules).

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